

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EA/VLC:DCHARR:JY

APPROVED BY: EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL

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R 131841Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117864

FOR FRANK SIEVERTS, LOW DELEGATION

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 13567 ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG
VIENTIANE 12 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC VS

SUBJECT: MAY 12: AMCIT RANDOLPH AND FAMILY DEPART SAIGON

SUMMARY: AMCIT CLIFFORD W. RANDOLPH (64) AND DEPENDENTS
SU YEN WONG RANDOLPH (WIFE) AND NANCY RANDY WONG RANDOLPH
(DAUGHTER) ARRIVED IN BANGKOK MAY 12 FROM SAIGON ABOARD THE
FRENCH AIRLIFT.

1. RANDOLPH, A FORMER CONTRACTOR WHO LIVED IN VIETNAM FOR
14 YEARS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS EXPELLED PROBABLY FOR
MEDICAL REASONS. HE SAID BOTH HE AND LORENZO JUDSON, WHO
ARRIVED IN BANGKOK LAST WEEK, WERE ASSISTED BY INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS OFFICIALS IN SAIGON IN SEEKING EXIT ON GROUNDS OF
HEALTH.

2. RANDOLPH, WHO IS SUFFERING FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, SAID
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HE WAS GIVEN LESS THAN 24 HOURS NOTICE THAT HE WAS TO BE

EXPELLED. HE SAID HE SAW AMCIT LEE LEONG CHING IN SAIGON ON MORNING OF 12 MAY BUT OPINED THAT CHING UNLIKELY TO BE ALLOWED OUT WITH HIS WIFE AND VIETNAMESE CHILDREN. RANDOLPH SAID ONLY AMERICAN HE KNEW TO BE IN POOR HEALTH WAS JOSE RIOS, WHO ALSO HAD VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS AND IS IN INCREASINGLY POOR MENTAL CONDITION DUE TO FAILURE TO EFFECT EXIT FROM VIETNAM.

3. BY HIS OWN ROUGH ESTIMATE RANDOLPH SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WERE UPWARDS OF 1,000 FORMER AMERICAN SERVICEMEN STILL IN SAIGON, MANY OF THEM BLACKS. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN NUMEROUS AMERICANS WALKING AROUND SAIGON IN RECENT MONTHS, LIVING COMPLETELY OFF THE ECONOMY AND NOT BOTHERED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. RANDOLPH SAID HE KNEW OF NO AMERICANS IN PRISON.

4. RECOUNTING HIS ATTEMPTS TO FIND MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR HIS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND STOMACH PROBLEMS, RANDOLPH SAID HE VISITED A LARGE HOSPITAL IN CHOLON IN APRIL FOR AN X-RAY. HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THERE WERE NO X-RAY TECHNICIANS. WHEN HE TRIED TO SEE A PHYSICIAN HE WAS TOLD THEY HAD ALL GONE AWAY FOR "RE-EDUCATION." HE SAID NURSES AND ORDERLIES WERE HANDLING ALL MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND ADDED THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE MEDICINE AVAILABLE.

5. RANDOLPH SAID HIS CHINESE WIFE HAD FRIENDS IN SAIGON WHO TOLD OF FREQUENT ROAD INTERDICTION BETWEEN SAIGON AND DALAT AND CONSTANT INTERDICTION ON THE ROAD TO BAN ME THOUT BY ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE FORCES. HE HAD NO DETAILS BUT SAID VEGETABLES, TRADITIONALLY BROUGHT IN FROM DALAT, WERE INCREASINGLY HARD TO FIND IN SAIGON.

6. IN MID-APRIL THE CHIEF OF IMMIGRATION IN SAIGON TOLD RANDOLPH THAT AFTER THE 25 MAY ELECTIONS MANY AMERICANS WOULD BE LEAVING SAIGON. RANDOLPH COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NO OTHER EVIDENCE THAT OTHERS WOULD BE FOLLOWING HIM SOON. BUT HE SAID EVERYBODY WANTED TO GET OUT.

7. COMMENT. RANDOLPH IS TIRED AND UNWELL AND HAS SPENT MORE THAN A YEAR TRYING TO GET HIS FAMILY AND HIMSELF OUT
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OF SAIGON TO THE VIRTUAL EXCLUSION OF EVERYTHING ELSE. HE APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE, OR INTEREST, IN CURRENT EVENTS OR IN THE NEW RULERS OF SOUTH VIETNAM. HE IS ONLY AMERICAN EXITING SAIGON IN PAST YEAR WHO HAS ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AMERICANS REMAINING AT 1000. UNLESS OTHER EVIDENCE IS DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW, WE DO NOT RPT NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY BUT REPORT IT AS RANDOLPH MAY USE THIS FIGURE WITH THE PRESS. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, LIVING CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE117864
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/VLC:DCHARR:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760185-1150
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760557/aaaabwmu.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 12: AMCIT RANDOLPH AND FAMILY DEPART SAIGON SUMMARY: AMCIT CLIFFORD W. RANDOLPH (64) AND DEPENDENTS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, SOCI, VS, (RANDOLPH, CLIFFORD W)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006